



SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in June remained at May's rate of 4.4 percent. In June 2001 the rate was 4.2 percent. Even though the rate remained the same, total employment in June decreased slightly (210) while unemployment increased by only ten. A year-over-year comparison recorded the same trend of decreasing employment with very little corresponding increase of unemployment. In comparison to June 2001, June 2002 employment decreased by 510. It is generally assumed that when employment decreases, unemployment increases proportionally. This was not the case in year-over-year comparisons as unemployment increased by only 70. Before speculating as to why year-over-year unemployment did not increase by more than 70, when employment decreased by 510 we will need to review July and August data when it is released later this year.

In June, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* showed a decrease of 220 from May 2002 and 620 from June 2001. The decrease in June, which is usually a strong employment month, is cause for concern. Only *Manufacturing* and *Construction* industries recorded growth. Compared to last year at this time *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* has decreased notably. Employment was lost in all industries except for some sectors of *Manufacturing* and *Government*.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Per Capita Personal Income

County	1999	2000
Clearwater	\$19,030	\$19,864
Idaho	\$18,218	\$19,164
Latah	\$20,033	\$21,084
Lewis	\$19,332	\$21,299
Nez Perce	\$23,814	\$25,362
State of Idaho	\$22,371	\$23,727
United States	\$27,843	\$29,469

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, June 2002

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	June 2002*	May 2002	June 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,660	34,860	35,100	-0.6	-1.3
Unemployment	1,530	1,520	1,460	0.7	4.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	-0.2
Total Employment	33,130	33,340	33,640	-0.6	-1.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,630	34,930	35,070	-0.9	-1.3
Unemployment	1,470	1,400	1,400	5.0	5.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.0	4.0	0.2	-0.2
Total Employment	33,160	33,530	33,670	-1.1	-1.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	25,490	25,710	26,110	-0.9	-2.4
Goods-Producing Industries	5,280	5,210	5,380	1.3	-1.9
Mining & Construction	1,390	1,470	1,550	-5.4	-10.3
Manufacturing	3,890	3,740	3,830	4.0	1.6
Food Processing	90	70	160	28.6	-43.8
Lumber & Wood Products	730	650	730	12.3	0.0
Paper Products	1,720	1,680	1,650	2.4	4.2
All Other Manufacturing	1,350	1,340	1,290	0.7	4.7
Service-Producing Industries	20,210	20,500	20,730	-1.4	-2.5
Transportation	1,350	1,360	1,390	-0.7	-2.9
Communications & Utilities	260	260	280	0.0	-7.1
Wholesale Trade	970	960	970	1.0	0.0
Retail Trade	4,870	4,920	5,030	-1.0	-3.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,370	1,400	1,410	-2.1	-2.8
Services	6,470	6,520	6,820	-0.8	-5.1
Government Administration	2,740	2,700	2,680	1.5	2.2
Government Education	2,180	2,380	2,150	-8.4	1.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Per Capita Personal Income (PPCI) is generally cited as a useful tool for judging the economic prosperity of a county. Conceptually, it is designed to pick up virtually all sources of income called Total Personal Income (TPI). PPCI measures average income for a population, regardless of age or employment situation. Therefore, children, retirees, institutionalized people, and the unemployed are included in the county's PPCI. The U.S. Department of Commerce recently revised the data from 1999 through 2000. The 2000 statewide ranking of North Central Idaho counties, along with the percent increase from 1999, are as follows:

- » *Clearwater County*—ranked 21st, increasing 4.2 percent to \$19,864.
- » *Idaho County*—ranked 29th, increasing 4.9 percent to \$19,164.
- » *Latah County*—ranked 18th, increasing 5.0 percent to \$21,084.
- » *Lewis County*—ranked 15th, increasing 9.3 percent \$21,299.
- » *Nez Perce County*—ranked 4th, increasing 5.8 percent to \$25,362.

Seaport Table 2 shows the 1999 and 2000 PPCI figures for the Seaport counties, the state of Idaho, and the United States.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- Nearly \$2 million in federal and state grants have been acquired to develop a light manufacturing industrial site in Orofino. The grants will cover the development, land costs, and construction of a 30,000-square-foot building. An expanding local company, Architectural Sign and Engraving, will be the anchor for the new building and will occupy about half of the space. The other half of the building will provide space to encourage local business to expand or outside companies to move to the county. Already companies have inquired and are being considered. A & R Construction of Lewiston has completed the first phase of work on the industrial site. Phase II, construction of the building, was awarded to KOP Construction of Spokane, Washington. Work began on the building in August. Phase II was delayed so the site could dry out before the foundation for the new building was put in place.

Idaho & Lewis Counties

- The Hearthstone Bakery and Tea House have opened for business in Kamiah. Owners Harty and Marjorie Schmaehl have run the Hearthstone Lodge Bed and Breakfast, also located in Kamiah, for the past three years and said they saw a need for a town bakery. The Schmaehls took on the task, hoping to give the town a lift by creating jobs and helping to improve the economy. The bakery has 14 employees. The Schmaehls renovated a vacant building at 502 Main Street, using local artisans for the extensive remodel. Training for the bakers was provided by a prominent, award-winning baker from Seattle. The new bakery will offer 14 kinds of bread, along with pastries, donuts, and coffee. Breakfast crepes will soon be on the menu along with soup and salad lunches.

Latah County

- Beginning in the fall, airline passengers bound for the Pullman-Moscow airport will no longer have to stop at the Lewiston-Nez Perce airport first. Horizon Air, the sole commercial airline providing service to and from the airport, will make nonstop flights between Sea-Tac and Pullman-Moscow airports and between Sea-Tac and Lewiston-Nez Perce airports. The downside for passengers, especially during periods when flights are in demand, is that the airline will use smaller planes at both airports. Dan Russo, Horizon spokesman, said changing the flight schedule and planes makes economic sense. The 70-seat Q400, the aircraft that currently carries air travelers from both regional airports, is not being used to capacity. "That really is too big a plane to serve only Pullman or Moscow," he said. The plane will be replaced with the 37-seat Q200, which was used at Pullman-Moscow before fall 2001. Horizon operates four flights per day between Sea-Tac and the two regional airports. Russo

said the number of flights would remain the same when the change takes effect September 1.

Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- A Harley-Davidson satellite store will open in North Lewiston early this fall in the former Empire Foods grocery store next to Rusty's Ranch Cafe. "Lewiston has a very, very strong interest in Harley-Davidson," says George Latus, owner of Latus Motors Harley-Davidson in Spokane and Portland. The riding season in the Lewiston area is one of the best in the Inland Northwest, closing only for the occasional winter snowstorm, Latus says. The store will sell new and used Harley-Davidson motorcycles, parts, accessories, and clothing. It also will provide repairs and maintenance. The Lewiston branch store will be about 7,000-square feet—less than a third the size of the dealerships in Spokane and Portland—and will employ six to eight people initially. The Portland dealership has 50 employees and the Spokane location employs 30.
- Safeway and AmericanWest Bank, the two newest tenants of Nez Perce Plaza in Lewiston, are expected to open early this fall. Safeway also plans to have a gas station on Thain Grade near the entrance to Home Depot and the grocery store. Talks are underway with three other businesses to locate at the plaza, including Boston's, a sit-down restaurant, Petco, and the Fashion Bug, a clothing retailer. The port of Lewiston is developing a business and technology park adjacent to the shopping area. According to AmericanWest Bank company officials, that is one of the reasons they wanted the first branch in Lewiston to be at Nez Perce Plaza. The bank, which is financing Nez Perce Plaza, also chose the site because it will be the newest shopping district in town and will have high visibility. Employees at the new business and technology park will have easy access to the bank. The park's first tenant will be Regence Blue-Shield of Idaho and the Regence Group, which will occupy a 70,000-square-foot office complex on ten acres. The Regence Group will employ 100 to 150 people in new jobs to process claims for customers of Regence affiliates in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Utah. In addition, Regence will move more than 300 claims processing and customer service employees who now work at the insurance provider's Bryden Avenue office to the new office complex. The business and technology park will have room for another six to ten tenants of varying sizes on the remaining 33 acres.

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